



AGENDA

Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting, August 14, 2024
12:00pm Creekmore Community Center

Approval of minutes from the July 10th meeting.

1. Review Preliminary Layout of Tilles Park Inclusive Playground
2. Project Updates
3. Public Comments
4. Commission and Staff Comments

City of Fort Smith
Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes of Meeting
July 10, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Commission met at noon on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 in the Rose Room at Creekmore Park Community Center.

Park Commission members present: Madeline Marquette, Chris Raible, David Roberts, Sandy Sanders, Sam Hanna, and Nancy Raney.

Park Commission members absent: Andrew Deal

Staff members present: Jeff Dingman, Sara Deuster, Linda Woodruff, and Amber Plank.

Others: Alan Shepard, Kathleen Parsons, Manda Cravey, Jeremy Catwright, Michele Jackson, Andre Good, and Rod (last name not provided on sign-in sheet).

Chris Raible called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. Raney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.

1. Review Results from Parks CIP Survey

Deuster reviewed the results from the parks capital improvement survey. Almost 400 citizens responded to the survey. Deuster noted these results would be used to help in the department's development of the FY25-FY29 Parks CIP.

2. Discuss Rules for Pickleball Courts

Deuster stated Alan Shepard, a member of the Western Arkansas Pickleball Advocates (WAPA), met with her regarding adding rule signage to the Chaffee Crossing Pickleball Courts. Deuster reviewed the proposed rules, noting they closely mimic those found at the Creekmore Park Tennis Center. Sanders made a motion to adopt rules. The motion was seconded by Hanna and unanimously approved.

3. Project Updates

Creekmore Park Train Tunnel- The construction of the tunnel is complete, and landscaping will be added next spring.

Tilles Park Improvements – Phase I of the improvements are complete, which included the new walking path, basketball courts, disc golf improvements, and drainage. The design for in the inclusive playground is in progress. New benches and shade canopies will be placed by the basketball courts and splash pad.

Woodlawn Park – Phase I is complete, which included a new restroom, sidewalk connectivity, and basketball court. The new toddler play amenity has been ordered and will be installed next spring.

Maybranch Greenway Phase IA – The contractor has completed the framing from North 7th to Midland Blvd. Weather has slowed progress; however, they are still moving forward.

Creekmore Park Bathhouse – We are currently waiting on the engineer to provide the redesign of the footings for the diving well enclosure before the contractor can move forward.

Carol Ann Cross Park Greenway & Boardwalk – The concrete is about 30-40% completed. An informational flyer will be mailed out to residents within the Riverlyn Drive neighborhood to inform about the project and address concerns regarding the landscaping once the project is complete.

Fort Smith Park Restrooms – The new restroom was opened to the public on June 26th.

Creekmore Park Toddler Play Area & Swing Bay-Scheduled to begin installation later this week.

Creekmore Park Sidewalks & Drainage- Construction is progressing. The contractor is currently working on the retaining wall around the swing bay.

Former Acme Brick Property – The evaluation committee have selected the top three finalists to invite for in-person interviews beginning next week.

4. **Public Comments**

Jeremy with the skateboard and BMX advocate group was present to comment on some issues regarding the Riverfront Skate and Bike Park. The skating/biking community would like to see if the restrooms could be open until curfew, lights to stay on until 12:30am, signage installed, additional dirt maintenance, and requested to see if the ramps from Martin Luther King Jr. Park could be moved to the River Park.

5. **Commission and Staff Comments**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Chris Raible, Chairman

Amber Plank, Records Coordinator